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CELL CULTURE MEDIA FOR MAMMALIAN CELLS

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A new chemically defined hepatocyte basal medium (HBM) allowing maintenance, differentiation and long-term growth of mammalian hepatocytes comprises: (a) a synthetic stock basal medium designed for mammalian cell culture, and (b) hepatocyte cell growth promoting amounts of any or a combination of: nicotinamide, amino acids, transferrin, hormones, dexamethasone, trace metals and the simple carbohydrates D-glucose and D-galactose. The culture medium optionally contains a buffer, antibiotics, albumin and growth factors in hepatocyte cell growth enhancing amounts. The basal medium is e.g. Minimal Essential Medium (MEM), William's Media E, Basal Media Eagle (BME), media 199, F-12 (Ham) Nutrient Mixture, F-10 (Ham) Nutrient Mixture and RPMI Media 1640 or, especially, DMEM (particularly containing 2.0g/l D-glucose). The amino acids are preferably L-glutamine, L-ornithine, L-proline and/or L-arginine. The hormones are preferably insulin and dexamethasone, and the transferrin holo-transferrin 30% saturated with iron or apo-transferrin with iron gluconate. The trace metals are preferably zinc, manganese, copper and selenium, and especially ZnCl₂, ZnSO₄·7H₂O, MnSO₄, CuSO₄·5H₂O and NaSeSO₄. The preferred buffer is HEPES and the antibiotic penicillin and/or streptomycin. The albumin is preferably bovine serum, human, rat, porcine or equine albumin and the growth factors HGF/SF, EGF or TGF- α .

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